

RECOGNIZING ACCOMPLISHMENT
OF KNOX COUNTY COMMISSION
CHAIRMAN, LEO COOPER

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2001

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to officially recognize the recent accomplishment of my constituent and friend, Knox County Commission Chairman, Leo Cooper. Commissioner Cooper was recently reappointed as chairman of the Knox County Commission by a unanimous vote and is beginning his third term in this important role. Mr. Cooper's leadership and genuine desire to serve the public are reflected in the fact that he is now the longest-serving Chairman in the history of the Knox County Commission.

In Washington, we often overlook the critical role local governments play in the lives of the American people. By focusing on broad legislative initiatives, we can easily lose sight of the tremendous work that must be done at the county and city levels.

Commissioner Cooper's reappointment as chairman will not be covered by national news, but I believe it serves as an opportunity to highlight, not only his efforts, but also the efforts of all Americans who have committed themselves to serving in local elected office.

Since 1986, Commissioner Leo Cooper has served the men, women and families of the Seventh District of Knox County as a tireless advocate and friend. Prior to being elected to local government, Chairman Cooper's career was dedicated to education and improving the lives of Knox County's young adults. Whether as an elected official or a schoolteacher and principle, Mr. Cooper has continually committed himself to public service. The people of the seventh district recognize this, and I am pleased that the other dedicated members of the Knox County Commission do as well.

I add these remarks to the RECORD today so that every member of the House of Representatives can join me in thanking Mr. Leo Cooper and every elected official in our respective districts who play such vital roles in the well-being of our communities.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SUSAN
MENCER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2001

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Susan Mencer on her new appointment as Director of the Office of Preparedness and Security for the State of Colorado. Susan will now play a key role in the defense of the State of Colorado and this nation from the threat of terrorism. This will be a challenging role for Susan, but I am confident she will prove herself most capable of leading Colorado in this time of national tragedy.

Protecting our country from terrorism is not a new role for Susan. She began her service in 1978 as an agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Her initial duties at the agency led her to the Office of Counterintelligence in

New York. Serving as an agent, she was responsible for ensuring that foreign diplomats were not involved in spying or obtaining classified information concerning national security while posted in the United States. Susan's success propelled her to the FBI Headquarters in 1985, where she served in several high level roles as head of the budget unit for the Intelligence Division and Supervisor of Counterintelligence Operations.

In 1990, Susan came to the FBI Denver office and directed programs involving international and domestic terrorism, foreign counterintelligence. As a result of her dedication, Susan was named Director of the Joint Terrorism Task Force in Denver created in response to the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995. Enjoying retirement since 1998, Susan was again called to duty following the Columbine shooting incident and served on the investigation panel. Her commitment to the safety for schools and our children led to an appointment from Governor Bill Owens to head the Department of Public Safety.

Mr. Speaker, the State of Colorado is fortunate to have Susan Mercer lead our efforts to counter terrorism in the State of Colorado. Her impressive resume speaks volumes for Susan's dedication and commitment to keep this nation safe and free from terrorism. I am honored to have Susan in this position and extend my thanks for her service to Colorado and her commitment to this nation.

NEW YORK CITY CONGRESSIONAL
SESSION GAINS MOMENTUM

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2001

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you an article that appeared in the Hill newspaper on Wednesday, November 28, 2001. This news story is concerning H. Con. Res. 249, a resolution that I recently introduced, which provides for a joint session of Congress to be held in New York City early next year. I am pleased to have this opportunity to share this story with my colleagues.

[From the Hill, Nov. 28, 2001]

NYC CONGRESSIONAL SESSION GAINS
MOMENTUM

(By Kerry Kantin)

Despite the logistic hurdles that confront the notion of convening a session of Congress outside of Washington, D.C., momentum is building behind the movement to conduct a symbolic, one-day joint session in New York City.

A resolution introduced last month has already captured the bipartisan support of 165 House members. The House effort is spearheaded by New York State delegation Democratic chairman Rep. Charlie Rangel, who is from Manhattan.

Rangel, working with New York State GOP delegation dean Rep. Ben Gilman, has been actively corraling support from both his Democratic and Republican colleagues.

"It would be historic. It would be a way of symbolizing the strike we took for the nation and their appreciation for it," said the 15-term Rangel in a phone interview last week. "Any city or any town or village know the Congress is with them, like they're with New York City."

Rangel acknowledged that there are several logistical obstacles, including where the

session would be held and security issues, to iron out, but said that should not get in the way of members' support.

"No one's turning us down," Rangel added. "I know I can get my signatures next week."

Rangel and Gilman have written Dear Colleague letters, asking their support for the measure.

"We are equally impressed by our colleagues' support of a symbolic—but powerful—gesture to convene the Congress in New York for one day," write Rangel and Gilman in a Nov. 14 letter. "We believe that such a session in the city where Congress first convened would be a powerful and meaningful expression of support to New York."

The session would also provide an opportunity for all lawmakers to meet with New Yorkers, the letter adds.

The movement to bring Congress to the Big Apple was catalyzed on the editorial page of the Sept. 25 New York Daily News. The New York tabloid wrote an editorial urging a joint session of Congress in New York City, even if it is only for one day.

Rangel quickly picked up the cause and introduced a resolution on Oct. 12; New York Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D) and Charles Schumer (D), followed suit, introducing a companion resolution Nov. 15.

"We're working actively to see that it happens," said Schumer, of his and Clinton's efforts. "It would be a shot in the arm for New York."

In the House, the resolution has captured the support of 53 Republicans and 112 Democrats, ranging from Empire State liberals like Rep. Jerrold Nadler to Midwestern conservatives like Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) and Don Manzullo (R-Ill.). The entire 31-member New York State delegation has signed on, as well as several other members from the Northeast.

With the exception of retiring House Minority Whip David Bonior (Mich), the entire Democratic leadership has pledged its support for the resolution, but no one from the House GOP leadership. It has, however, received the support of other influential Republicans, including Appropriations Committee Chairman Bill Young (Fla.) and Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Billy Tauzin (La.).

"Everyone has been extremely receptive," Rangel said. "But when we get to the logistics, I hope they'll love me as much in the springtime as they do in the fall."

Other members are wary to sign on until finding out more details.

"I saw the note from Charlie [Rangel], but Gosh, it's an interesting concept, but I don't know if I'm for it or against it," said House Republican Conference Chairman Rep. J.C. Watts (R-Okla.).

"I do find it quite intriguing we would consider something like that," he added. "I'm sure we would look at the pros and cons and give it a fair hearing. It seems to be a massive undertaking to move the mechanics of Congress to another location."

While his primary focus is gaining as many signatures as he can, Rangel said he is looking into about six sites. He added that he is working with New York City Mayor-elect Michael Bloomberg (R) and other city leaders, like Bill Ruden, the chairman of the Association for a Better New York.

Ed Skyler, a spokesman for the Bloomberg Transition Team, said the mayor-elect "strongly supports" the resolution. He added that Bloomberg discussed the issue during his trip to Washington earlier this month.

Those in support of the resolution say the logistics can be hammered out at a later time.

"A lot of those things would need to be worked out," acknowledged Schumer, adding that lawmakers could not work out many of